

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

**SECRET**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY	USSR (Kalinin Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Working Conditions at Podlipki and on Gorodomlya Island	DATE DISTR.	13 April 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	5
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT	
		REFERENCES	

25X1

25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

**SECRET**

25X1

STATE	Ev	#	X	ARMY	#	X	NAVY	#	X	AIR	#	X	FBI		AEC		ORR	Ev	X
-------	----	---	---	------	---	---	------	---	---	-----	---	---	-----	--	-----	--	-----	----	---

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET

-2-

25X1

- [REDACTED]
5. The Germans on Gorodomlya Island lived within a barbed wire enclosure and under the surveillance of armed guards. The enclosure included the entire area of the island. Within it [REDACTED] were free to move about [REDACTED] except in the immediate proximity of the fence, which was constantly patrolled. In the summer [REDACTED] were allowed to pass through the fence at two places in order to reach bathing beaches. Buoys which carried signs designating the area of the island as forbidden surrounded the island.
6. There were two food shops within the area, one for the Germans and another for the Soviets, and a general store (promtovarnyy magazin). [REDACTED] lived in wooden houses under very crowded conditions.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] It was customary to assign two families to a two-room house. The Soviets were equally crowded, if not more so.
7. Most of the Soviet higher echelon personnel lived in Ostashkov and commuted daily by boat in the summer or by bus in the winter, when Seliger Lake was frozen over. Germans were not allowed to live in Ostashkov. There was one exception, an 18-year-old German girl who was permitted to complete her studies at the 10-year school there in 1951.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

25X1

8. [redacted] There were approximately 100 German children on Gorodomlya. German teachers, selected from among the German dependent personnel on the island, taught the first four grades, and the next three grades were taught by Soviets, except for certain special subjects which the Soviet teachers were not prepared to teach. The school itself was quite inadequate. A new and larger school was built on the island in 1954.
9. The Germans on Gorodomlya lived in an area to themselves. (Nearby was a small Soviet village, Pervomayka, where only Soviets lived.) There were more Germans than Soviets on the island and [redacted] used the local club building more than they did. [redacted] used the club building when presenting musicals and amateur theatrical productions; Soviet films were shown there sporadically. The only Soviet radio on Gorodomlya was located in the club building and the Soviet houses had loud-speakers installed which were connected with this one radio. Many of the Germans had their own radio sets, on which they frequently listened to RIAS broadcasts.
10. A Communist Party organization existed at the institute and held regular meetings, usually at the end of the working day. The Party organization was not very large, but included representatives of all work levels. There was a larger Komsomol organization which held frequent meetings and engaged in propaganda work in the plant. The key personnel in the plant were generally chosen for their ability, [redacted] at least one case of a Party member who had absolutely no technical training being chief of a plant division.
11. The number of NKVD-MGB personnel in the plant was considerable but their activities were not always known [redacted] It was a known fact that the so-called First Department was staffed by NKVD personnel. This department issued all security instructions and controlled their execution. Every employee who dealt with secret material received a folder in which his papers were to be kept. At the end of the day this folder was sealed and, with several others, was put into a small box which was also sealed before it was put away for the night. Each folder and each box had to have a complete list of contents included. This material was returned in the morning upon receipt of the employee's identification card. It was strictly forbidden, of course, to take any papers from the plant.
12. There was still another section in the plant which was manned by NKVD personnel and whose function was not known [redacted] Four or five people, usually dressed in NKVD uniforms, worked in a room with a padded door which was closed on the outside by means of a steel bar and a multiple lock. The officials of this section were not there at all times -- only an hour or so each day. One of them always lived on the island. [redacted] they were usually very cordial [redacted] one, Ghesnokov, whose official title was Planning Engineer. He was succeeded by a Captain Morochov, who was always in uniform and was accompanied by a woman interpreter. Morochov was succeeded by a First Lieutenant Korsakov, who often appeared in civilian clothes. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

25X1

13.

received a so-called "attendance check"  
(Anwesenheitsmarke)

These were stamped according to the department in  
which the employee worked.

25X1

14. Plant guards were posted in front of the institute building before each separate unit, and patrolled the area. They were under a commanding officer who was directly responsible to the director of the institute and would take no orders from anyone else. The guards wore no special uniforms but were permitted to wear old army clothes. They were all provided with either a gun or a pistol.
15. There were but few instances of Germans getting into difficulty with the NKVD. One German engineer\* was sentenced to a half year's imprisonment for refusing to work. He was sent to Kalinin and there, at the expiration of this period, was given a prolonged sentence. His friends on Gorodomlya received a few letters from him in which he asked for money and then there was no further word from him. He seemed to have disappeared forever.
16. There was some talk of the activities of an underground resistance group in East Germany and several specialists were subjected to questioning in this connection. There were, however, no arrests made on the island as a result of this investigation.
17. The German specialists received much higher salaries than the Soviets. Among the latter the director received 2500 rubles a month, department heads 2000, engineers 1500, technical workers 1000 to 1500, secretaries 500 to 1000, plumbers 600, laborers 500, guards 400 or less, and construction helpers (women) 300 or 250. The interpreter/translator was paid on a piecework basis and earned as much as 2000 rubles a month. The small circle of high-level personnel and key technicians were given bonuses in addition to their basic salaries.
18. German department heads (who always had Soviet deputies) were paid 8500 rubles a month, scientific workers 6000 to 7500, graduate engineers 4000 to 5000, other engineers 3000, and master artisans 2500. Since those possessing university degrees were given higher salaries, there was a tendency for specialists to falsify their titles. In one case it was discovered that a German had falsely claimed the possession of a doctor's degree and his salary was reduced from 6000 to 2000 rubles. Strangely enough, this German decided to become a naturalized Soviet citizen and remained in the Soviet Union.
19. For a long time no particular attempts were made to politically indoctrinate the Germans on Gorodomlya. A government commission from Moscow visited the institute in 1950 and decided that the Germans there were politically immature and that political courses should be organized. Some of the Germans also took the initiative and suggested that political study circles be formed. This was done with Soviet instructors and a study of The History of the All-Union Communist Party, Bolshevik Short Course was undertaken. The enterprise did not last long, however. After an enthusiastic start, the attendance of Germans fell off more and more. The Germans soon discovered that the Soviet instructors were completely incapable of explaining such political questions to

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

25X1

people whose thought was not steeped in official doctrine. The course was discontinued and the Soviets seemed to be happy to leave the Germans to our ignorance of Marxism.

20. [redacted] the Soviet citizens seemed to accept the propaganda line fed them [redacted]

25X1

21. Concerning the efficiency of Soviet technical personnel [redacted] they have had good theoretical training but they are behind in practical application. They tend to memorize their textbooks and to neglect the practical testing and understanding of the theories learned. On the other hand, the Soviet technicians, especially the young people, are very eager to learn and to work, and approach their tasks with great enthusiasm.

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment: Probably should read Chesnyakov.

25X1

SECRET